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# Spotlight on Congress

## Defense Spending Higher Because of Lost Technology

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A recent event in my state of Tennessee illustrates why our defense budget is unnecessarily high—and how it could be significantly reduced over the next several years while enhancing our national security at the same time.

A Senate investigation has disclosed that sensitive information on our country's high technology—technology with military value—is being regularly sent to the Soviet Union because of poor oversight by the U.S. government agencies set up to control the exports of such technology.

The U.S. government, in fact, frequently makes the Russians' work even easier by publishing technical data on military programs. For example, in 1979 two officials from the Soviet Embassy went to the public library in Milan, Tenn., to photocopy pages from an environmental impact statement concerning the construction of a plant to manufacture military explosives. Milan, as many West Tennesseans know, is the home of the Milan Arsenal, an important part of our nation's defense network.

The results of this leakage of vital high technology are multi-faceted, but

there is one clear result: When the Soviets take our high technology and apply it to their weapons systems, our national security is threatened. And to meet this greater Soviet threat, we have to spend more and more money on developing weapons to counter this new threat.

Here are a couple of examples of Soviet use of American technology in their military forces. The Soviet intercontinental nuclear missile is now guided by a computer that is a copy of a sophisticated Hewlett-Packard model stolen by Soviet agents at a 1972 Swiss trade show. The internal guidance system was perfected with a ball-bearing grinding machine from a New England firm, transported to the Soviet Union with a validated U.S. Commerce Department export license.

Probably the most publicized, and most reprehensible, loss of vital information occurred when the Carter Administration deliberately leaked the fact of the existence of the Stealth bomber program during the 1980 presidential campaign. This was done purely to counteract charges that Jimmy Carter had been negligent in maintaining our defense capability.

To deal with this serious problem, I have written the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, of which I am a member, strongly urging that our Subcommittee on Investigations immediately hold hearings on this issue. We simply cannot afford—militarily or economically—to give the Soviets the technology their own backward system cannot develop.